



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** January 10, 2006

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Contract For The Old Mission Creek Restoration And Stormwater Project

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Approve and authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services agreement with WRC Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$86,694 to prepare a feasibility report and detailed concept design plans for stormwater runoff treatment systems and the restoration of Old Mission Creek within and adjacent to the West Figueroa Street right-of-way; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to increase these services by 15 percent, or \$13,004 to cover any cost increases that may result from optional work items identified in the scope of work.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the project is to reduce downstream water pollution in Mission Creek and ultimately East Beach, and to restore a large section of Old Mission Creek. Water quality testing has indicated high levels of both bacteria and sediments. The proposed project site is an open space area at the intersection of West Figueroa and San Pascual Streets. The potential project area is approximately two acres and consists of both private and public land. It includes Old Mission Creek, a large flat floodplain area, and high steep banks of the historic Mission Creek channel. The site is surrounded by urban development and consists of single family homes, apartment complexes, and condominiums.

The Creeks Division recommends that the City contract with WRC Consulting Services, Inc. to determine the feasibility of restoring Old Mission Creek and installing a stormwater detention system in an open space area in the West Figueroa Street right of way. The primary goal of the project will be to detain and filter polluted stormwater and incidental

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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urban runoff in order to improve water quality downstream in Old Mission Creek as well as Mission Creek and ultimately, East Beach. Secondary goals are to improve native plant and animal habitat, reduce creek bed/bank erosion, provide a demonstration site for stormwater treatment systems, and detain stormwater in order to incrementally reduce downstream flow rates into Mission Creek. The design contract will provide the necessary information to determine if a restoration and stormwater quality improvement project is feasible and cost effective in this location. The cost of the design contract is \$86,694 and there is a contingency of \$13,004.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Extensive water quality monitoring by the Creeks Division at Old Mission Creek, Mission Creek, and the surf zone at East Beach has shown that concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria often exceed the recreational contact standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency for freshwater beaches, and the State of California standards for marine beaches. The proposed project site at West Figueroa is one of the largest flood plains within the Mission Creek drainage that is owned, in part, by the City and has the potential to serve as a detention and treatment system for polluted urban and stormwater runoff.

Because of poor water quality, Old Mission Creek has been the focus of restoration and clean-up efforts by the City's Creeks Division. In 2003, 1.5 acres of riparian habitat was restored on the section of Old Mission Creek which runs through Bohnett Park. In addition, directly upstream of the restoration site, an ultra violet (UV) water treatment facility will be installed to treat low flow water from the Westside Drain. Final plans for the UV project are almost complete, and construction is scheduled for the spring of 2006. The proposed restoration and detention basin at West Figueroa is downstream of these projects. The site is located at the lower end of Old Mission Creek and would serve as the last treatment device before the water enters the main Mission Creek channel.

The West Figueroa area has been discussed as a potential site for water quality treatment and restoration since the year 2000 when the Creeks Inventory and Assessment Study included this area as a suitable location for providing water quality treatment and improved riparian habitat. The 2002 Bacterial Reduction Study also identified the area as a potentially good site for water quality treatment efforts. With the success of the restoration project at Bohnett Park in 2003, restoration of the West Figueroa site is the next logical step in improving water quality and habitat on Old Mission Creek. In 2004, funding for the project was included in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget. Also in 2004, the Creeks Division developed a detailed work plan for moving the project from concept to construction. In fall 2004, the work plan was reviewed and finalized with input from both the Park and Recreation Commission and the Creeks Advisory Committee.

There are 18 property owners adjacent to and within the potential project boundary, including the Santa Barbara Housing Authority. In 2005, Creeks Division staff met with all

the property owners to discuss potential project elements, including tree and vegetation removal, native plant installation, detention basin construction, and public access. Overall, property owners were supportive of improving water quality and restoration of the site, but raised concern over public access, mosquito habitat, and loss of vegetation screening. These concerns will be addressed during the feasibility study.

#### Consultant Selection

In August 2005, a request for proposal was distributed to 30 engineering and design firms located throughout California, including 4 firms with Santa Barbara offices. The Creeks and Engineering Divisions interviewed the 3 firms (including 1 local) that submitted proposals. WRC Consulting Services, Inc. is recommended for this project because they have extensive experience designing stormwater detention and water quality treatment systems for agencies in Southern California, and successfully completed the detailed concept designs for the Las Positas Stormwater Management Project for the Creeks Division in November 2005. WRC utilizes an integrative approach that considers the competing project objectives and site constraints, along with potential downstream impacts. Previous clients, including the City of Newport Beach and City of Santa Barbara, have been pleased with WRC's innovative design work and their professional conduct.

#### **SCOPE AND TIMELINE:**

The scope of work includes project management, field work, data analysis, hydraulic analysis, engineering analysis and drafting, meetings with City staff, a community public meeting, and a presentation to the Creeks Advisory Committee. The scope includes development of three concept plans and development of a final detailed concept plan. The scope also includes a feasibility report with construction budget estimates and estimates of water quality improvement performance. The feasibility report and detailed concept design plans will be completed within six months of the contract award date.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The total cost for preparing the feasibility report detailed concept plans is \$86,694. Funds for the project are encumbered in the Creeks Division Capital Program. Due to the potential need for additional site investigations which are identified in the scope of work as optional work items, it is recommended that Council approval include a 15 percent change order contingency of \$13,004, for a total project cost of \$99,698 for the plans and feasibility report.

**PREPARED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager/gj

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office